

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the claims is as follows:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) A binding to retain a boot on a gliding or rolling apparatus, said binding comprising:

a base for supporting the boot, said base including an upper a surface extending along a plane;

a first lateral flange, a second lateral flange transversely spaced from said first lateral flange, said first and second lateral flanges extending upwardly relative to said surface of said base;

at least one linkage connecting said first flange to said second flange, said linkage including a first band extending from one fastening end to a free end, a first fastener attaching said fastening end of said first band to said first flange, said linkage further including a tightening device attached to said second flange, said tightening device facilitating an adjustment of a length of said linkage by removably retaining a portion of said first band;

an abutment being fixed to said first band toward said free end of said first band, so as to be located on an opposite side of the tightening device with respect to said fastening end of said first band, thus preventing a separation of said first band and said tightening device;

at least one linkage of said at least one linkage being is movable relative to said first and second lateral flanges to a boot removal/insertion position extending substantially along a plane parallel to said plane of said base.

Claim 2. (*Previously Presented*) A binding according to claim 1, further comprising a second fastener, wherein said linkage includes a second band, said second fastener attaching said second band to said second lateral flange, said tightening device being fixed to said second band.

Claim 3. (*Canceled*)

Claim 4. (*Previously Presented*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein said flanges are attached to said base.

Q1 Claim 5. (*Original*) A binding according to claim 1, wherein said tightening device has a passage for guiding said first band, said abutment being wider than said passage.

Claim 6. (*Original*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein said tightening device has a passage for guiding said first band, said abutment being wider than said passage.

Claim 7. (*Canceled*)

Claim 8. (*Original*) A binding according to claim 4, wherein said tightening device has a passage for guiding said first band, said abutment being wider than said passage.

Claim 9. (*Previously Presented*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein said first and second fasteners of each linkage are journals.

Claim 10. (*Original*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein one guide guides said abutment along said second band.

Claim 11. (*Canceled*)

Claim 12. (*Canceled*)

Claim 13. (*Original*) A binding according to claim 9, wherein one guide guides said abutment along said second band.

Claim 14. (*Canceled*)

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Claim 15. (*Previously Presented*) A binding according to claim 1, further comprising a rear arch for supporting a rear of the boot, said rear arch connecting said first and second lateral flanges, wherein a length of each of said at least one linkage is constructed and arranged so that, when said each of said at least one linkage is forwardly positioned, each of said at least one linkage extends around a front of the boot when the boot is supported on said base plate and in contact with said rear arch.

Claim 16. (*Previously Presented*) A binding according to claim 15, wherein said at least one linkage includes a front linkage having a length within a range of about 25 to 50 centimeters.

Claim 17. (*Previously Presented*) A binding according to claim 15, wherein said at least one linkage includes a rear linkage having a length within a range of about 45 to 85 centimeters.

Claim 18. (*Previously Presented*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein said first and second fasteners constitute first and second journal connections, and wherein said one linkage of said at least one linkage is pivotal about said first and second journal connections to said position extending substantially along a plane parallel to said plane of said base.

Claim 19. (*Previously Presented*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein said first fastener extends from said first band to said first flange and said second fastener extends from said second band to said second flange.

Claim 20. (*Previously Presented*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein said free end of said first band having a longitudinally tapered shape, and wherein said abutment comprises a pair of lateral teeth.

D | Claim 21. (*Previously Presented*) A binding according to claim 20, wherein said first band further comprises a longitudinal slot open at said free end, said longitudinal slot extending between said pair of lateral teeth.

Claim 22. (*Previously Presented*) A binding according to claim 20, wherein said first band further comprises a longitudinal slot positioned between said fastening end of said first band and said abutment.

Claim 23. (*Currently Amended*) A binding according to claim 2, wherein said first band includes an inner surface facing said base and an outer surface facing away from said base, and wherein said abutment extends away from said outer surface of said first band and is adapted to be engaged with said tightening device.

Claim 24. (*Previously Presented*) A binding according to claim 23, wherein said abutment is substantially in a form of a wedge, said wedge having a surface substantially perpendicular to said outer surface of said first band and facing longitudinally toward said tightening device.

Claim 25. (*Previously Presented*) A binding to retain a boot on a gliding or rolling apparatus, said binding comprising:

a first lateral flange, a second lateral flange transversely spaced from said first lateral flange;

at least one linkage extending from said first flange to said second flange, said one linkage comprising:

a first band extending from a fastening end to a free end, said fastening end of said first band being directly attached to said first flange by means of a first fastener, said free end of said first band having a longitudinally tapered shape;

a second band having a fastening end directly attached to said second flange by means of a second fastener;

a tightening device affixed to said second band and facilitating an adjustment of a length of said one linkage by removably retaining a portion of said first band against movement relative to said second band;

an abutment on said first band for preventing separation of said first band from said tightening device, said tightening device being positioned between said fastening end of said first band and said abutment;

said abutment comprising a pair of lateral teeth.

Claim 26. (*Previously Presented*) A binding according to claim 25, wherein said first band further comprises a longitudinal slot open at said free end, said longitudinal slot extending between said pair of lateral teeth.

Claim 27. (*Previously Presented*) A binding according to claim 25, wherein said first band further comprises a longitudinal slot positioned between said fastening end of said first band and said abutment.

Claim 28. (*Currently Amended*) A binding to retain a boot on a gliding or rolling apparatus, said binding comprising:

a first lateral flange, a second lateral flange transversely spaced from said first lateral flange;

at least one linkage extending from said first flange to said second flange, said one linkage comprising:

a first band extending from a fastening end to a free end, said fastening end of said first band being directly attached to said first flange by means of a first fastener, said first band including an inner surface adapted to face the boot and an outer surface adapted to face away from the boot;

a second band having a fastening end directly attached to said second flange by means of a second fastener;

a tightening device affixed to said second band and facilitating an adjustment of a length of said one linkage by removably retaining a portion of said first band against movement relative to said second band;

an abutment on said first band for preventing separation of said first band from said tightening device, said tightening device being positioned between said fastening end of said first band and said abutment, ~~; said first band including an inner surface adapted to face the boot and an outer surface adapted to face away from the boot~~, said abutment extending away from said outer surface of said first band and being adapted to be engaged with said tightening device.

Claim 29. (*Previously Presented*) A binding according to claim 28, wherein said abutment is substantially in a form of a wedge, said wedge having a surface substantially perpendicular to said outer surface of said first band and facing longitudinally toward said tightening device.

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) A binding according to claim 2, wherein to retain a boot on a gliding or rolling apparatus, said binding comprising:

a said base has for supporting the boot, said base including a surface extending along a plane, a front end and a rear end;

a first lateral flange and a second lateral flange, said first lateral flange being transversely spaced from said first lateral flange, said first and second lateral flanges extending upwardly relative to said surface of said base;

~~said linkage connecting said first flange to said second flange is a front linkage;~~

~~said at least one linkage further comprises a rear linkage a front linkage and a rear linkage, said front and rear linkages connecting said first flange to said second flange, each of said front and rear linkages comprising:~~

a first band and a second band, said first band extending from one fastening end to a free end, a first fastener attaching said fastening end of said first band to said first flange, a second fastener attaching said second band to said second flange; said rear linkage further including a first band having an abutment and a second band having a tightening device, whereby said abutment of said rear linkage prevents separation of said first band of said rear linkage and said tightening device of said rear linkage; and

a tightening device attached to said second band, said tightening device facilitating an adjustment of a length of a respective one of said front and rear linkages by removably retaining a portion of said first band;

an abutment being fixed to said first band toward said free end of said first band, so as to be located on an opposite side of the tightening device with respect to said fastening end of said first band, thus preventing a separation of said first band and said tightening device;

at least one linkage of said at least one linkage being movable relative to said first and second lateral flanges to a position extending substantially along a plane parallel to said plane of said base;

each of said front and rear linkages being are movable relative to said first and second flanges from a forward boot-removed position and a rearward boot-inserted position, whereby in said forward boot-removed position both of said front and rear linkages have lengths, while said first and second bands of said front and rear linkages are not separated, sufficient to extend forwardly beyond said front end of said base.

Claim 31. (*Previously Presented*) A binding according to claim 30, wherein said front linkage has a length within a range of about 25 to 50 centimeters and said rear linkage has a length within a range of about 45 to 85 centimeters.

Claim 32. (*Currently Amended*) A binding to retain a boot on a gliding or rolling apparatus, said binding comprising:

a base for supporting the boot, said base including a surface extending along a plane;

a first lateral flange, a second lateral flange transversely spaced from said first lateral flange, said first and second lateral flanges extending upwardly relative to said surface of said base;

at least one linkage connecting said first flange to said second flange, said linkage comprising:

a first band extending from a fastening end to a free end, a first fastener attaching said fastening end of said first band to said first flange;

a second band extending from a fastening end to a free end, a second fastener attaching said fastening end of said second band to said second flange;

a tightening device attached to said band, said tightening device facilitating an adjustment of a length of said linkage by removably retaining a portion of said first band;

said first band of said linkage extending longitudinally in a direction along a plane straight from said first fastener to said tightening device and said second band of said linkage extending longitudinally in a direction along a plane straight from said second fastener to said tightening device;

an abutment fixed to said first band proximate said free end of said first band, so as to be located on an opposite side of the tightening device with respect to said fastening end of said first band, thus preventing a separation of said first band and said tightening device;

 said linkage being movable relative to said first and second lateral flanges to a boot removal/insertion position, said linkage extending substantially along a plane parallel to said plane of said base in said boot removal/insertion position.

Claim 33. (New) A binding to retain a boot on a gliding or rolling apparatus, said binding comprising:

 a base for supporting the boot, said base including a surface extending along a plane, a front end and a rear end;

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 a first lateral flange and a second lateral flange, said first lateral flange being transversely spaced from said first lateral flange, said first and second lateral flanges extending upwardly relative to said surface of said base;

 a front linkage and a rear linkage, said front and rear linkages connecting said first flange to said second flange, each of said front and rear linkages comprising:

 a first band and a second band, said first band extending from one fastening end to a free end, a first fastener attaching said fastening end of said first band to said first flange, a second fastener attaching said second band to said second flange;

 a tightening device attached to said second band, said tightening device facilitating an adjustment of a length of a respective one of said front and rear linkages by removably retaining a portion of said first band;

 an abutment being fixed to said first band toward said free end of said first band, so as to be located on an opposite side of the tightening device with respect to said fastening end of said first band, thus preventing a separation of said first band and said tightening device;

 each of said front and rear linkages being movable relative to said first and second flanges from a forward boot-removed position and a rearward boot-inserted position, whereby in said forward boot-removed position both of said front and rear linkages have lengths, while said first and second bands of said front and rear linkages are not separated, sufficient to extend forwardly beyond said front end of said base.

Claim 34. (New) A binding to retain a boot on a gliding or rolling apparatus, said binding comprising:

a base for supporting the boot, said base including a surface extending along a plane;

a first lateral flange, a second lateral flange transversely spaced from said first lateral flange, said first and second lateral flanges extending upwardly relative to said surface of said base;

at least one linkage connecting said first flange to said second flange, said linkage including a first band extending from one fastening end to a free end, a first fastener attaching said fastening end of said first band to said first flange, said linkage further including a tightening device attached to said second flange, said tightening device facilitating an adjustment of a length of said linkage by removably retaining a portion of said first band;

an abutment being fixed to said first band toward said free end of said first band, so as to be located on an opposite side of the tightening device with respect to said fastening end of said first band, thus preventing a separation of said first band and said tightening device;

at least one linkage of said at least one linkage being movable forwardly relative to said first and second lateral flanges unrestricted by said first and second lateral flanges from a use position to and in a boot removal/insertion position.

Claim 35. (New) A binding according to claim 34, wherein said at least one linkage of said at least one linkage being movable relative to said first and second lateral flanges forwardly, when the binding is attached to an upper surface of the gliding or rolling apparatus, to engagement with said gliding or rolling apparatus in said boot removal/insertion position.

Claim 36. (New) A binding according to claim 35, wherein said gliding or rolling apparatus is a snowboard, and wherein, in said boot removal/insertion position said at least one linkage of said at least one linkage is engageable with an upper surface of said snowboard.